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1752

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Contest*

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Leo Laviolette, *M. C.*
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Bi-Centennial Parade

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Assistant, Peter E. Pappas

Floats and Decorations

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Max Himan

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Merritt Hyatt

Football Game

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Six Contests

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Joseph Michonski

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Guest Book

Mrs. Gertrude K. Dunn
Max Himan

History of the Town of Palmer

BY C. WESLEY DINGMAN



The History of Palmer is a history of the kind of people who have made New England famous. It is the history of people who, seeking religious and economic freedom, went into the wilderness and settled where nature offered little of her bounty. The Elbows Tract at it was first known was described in 1733 by a General Court's committee as follows: "We find the greatest part of said land to be a Pine Land, high hills and low valleys; the hills very poor and mean, the valleys pretty good." But the early settlers were not seeking the charity of easy living, they asked only for freedom to work out their own salvation.

The brief history which follows here is taken in greater part from Temple's "History of the Town of Palmer." No attempt is made within the small confines of this program to mention historical material which falls within the memory of those now living.

What is now known as Palmer was originally called the Elbows Tract because of the two bends, or Elbows, in the Quaboag River, the westerly bend at what is now the "Wire Mill" and the easterly bend at what is now "Cooley's Crossing."

Although Indians hunted in this territory, and travelled through it, no permanent Indian village is known to have existed. Apparently, however, a seasonal campsite was used in the area of Nipmuck Road and what is now known as Flynt Brook. On the Historical map this is shown as Salisbury Brook.

This page donated by Chas. J. Dingman

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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

The earliest white settler was John King who in 1716 made his "pitch" beside the old Bay Path in what is now Palmer Village. In 1720 the first of the Scotch-Irish, who had migrated to this country in 1718, began to arrive in the Elbows Tract and apparently others followed them until 1733.

The oldest known document referring to this territory is Dwight's Plan of 1723 which is entitled "A Tract of Unappropriated Land of This Province Lying between Brookfield and the Equivalent Land". This early survey was of particular value in determining who were the real owners of the tract. In 1726 a group known as Lamb & Company claimed title to the Elbows Tract under an Indian deed dated 1687. For seven years the question of ownership was argued before the General Court. Finally it was decided that the land was Province Land and accordingly it was partitioned off to the various settlers in accordance with the report of a General Court Committee in June 1733 provided "That they, the aforesaid settlers and Grantees, Do erect & build a suitable House for Public Worship, and settle a Minister within two years; — And that they be allowed to bring in a Bill for erecting and settling themselves off as a Township accordingly." However, it was not until 19 years later that the inhabitants finally did bring in a bill and receive a charter as a Township.



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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

The earliest known name for this territory was New Marlborough. A deed dated 1729, and now in the Registry of Deeds at Springfield, describes a piece of land between the Ware and Swift Rivers in what is now Bondsville and refers to the tract as being in New Marlborough. The first use of the designation "The Elbows" appears to have been made in 1731. In 1733 the settlement is referred to as Kingsfield although it was in this same year that we find the name "The Elbows Tract" first officially used. About 1741 the place was called Kingston, but the official designation remained "The Elbows Tract" until 1752. When the inhabitants finally petitioned for a charter they requested that their Town be called Kingstown, but the governor of the colony, exercising his prerogatives, named the place Palmer, in honour of his friend Thomas Palmer, Esq. It is highly doubtful whether Thomas Palmer ever even heard of this struggling community in the wilderness.

The early growth of Palmer was exceedingly slow. Ten years after John King made his "pitch" there was a grand total of 17 families settled in King's Row. Seven years later, in 1733, the population had grown to 80. At the time of the Revolution the population was about 800.

Among the interesting notes concerning the part which the men of Palmer played in the last French & Indian War, 1754-1763, is the fact that one Matthew Spencer, serving with the very famous Major Rogers' Co. of Rangers, was captured by the Indians while on a scouting party from Lake George to Ticonderoga. When the French captured Fort William Henry several sons of Palmer were lost.

The memories of the French and Indian War were still fresh in the minds & hearts of the colonists when difficulties with England began to assume alarming proportions. The Stamp Act was passed in 1765 and we find the first recorded expression of public sentiment in Palmer in 1768 when it voted "that this District will by all prudent means endeavor to discountenance the use of foreign superfluities . . ." The time of the Revolution was fast approaching.



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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

At a town meeting on Sept. 19, 1774 a committee was appointed "To look into the state of the town stock of powder & lead, etc., and make report next Monday . . ." The following Monday the town voted to send David Spear to a general congress of delegates at Concord and also voted "that there be provided four half-barrels of powder, four hundred of lead, and one hundred dozen of flints, for a town stock, . . ." On Oct. 10th the Town voted to withhold taxes which had been collected for the Province and to deliver them into the hands of the District or Town Treasurer.

When the Provincial Congress met in Cambridge in Oct. 1774, and at which David Spear represented the Town of Palmer, the organization of the Minute Men was formed. In Mar. 1775 Palmer had a company of 26 Minute Men and on the morning of April 20th, following the news of Lexington and Concord, the company left Palmer augmented, however, to the number of 44.

In May 1775 the District of Palmer cast off its allegiance to royal authority by calling its meetings "In the name of the General Court and of the people of this Colony" rather than "In his Majesty's name."

One of the most historic of all documents in the history of Palmer was written on June 17, 1776. In the Palmer Declaration of Independence composed seventeen days before Congress issued its famous "Declaration" the inhabitants of Palmer stated:

"We, therefore, the Inhabitants of this Town, do believe it absolutely Necessary for the safety of the United Colonies, to be Independent from Great Britain, & Declare themselves Intirely a Separate State, as we can see no alternative but Inevitable ruin, or Independence. —But as there is a General Congress of the United Colonies, composed of Honourable, wise and good men, who sit at the Head of affairs, consulting measures which will be most for the Safety and Prosperity of the whole; & have the means of Intelligence and Information in their hands, we submit the whole affair to their wise Consideration & Determination: —And if they shall unite in a separation from Great Britain, we do unanimously determine & declare we will Support them with our Lives and Fortunes!"

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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

Following the War of Independence came the inevitable distress of debts and heavy taxation. The culmination of those troubled times in this area was "Shays Rebellion". The direct cause for action was that the Courts were sitting and passing judgements against debtors and it was to prevent the setting of the Courts that insurgents both at Northampton and at Great Barrington moved. The more sober citizens endeavored to rely upon the action of conventions but the results of this method were far from satisfactory. Captain Daniel Shays became the acknowledged leader of the insurgent demand for action and in Jan. 1787 he issued orders for his adherents to rendezvous with him at Palmer. On the 23rd of Jan. it is reported that more than 1000 men were assembled here under Shays. On the following day they marched to Wilbraham and on the afternoon of Jan. 25, 1787 they approached the Arsenal at Springfield. Gen. Shepard fired point blank at the head of the column killing four of Shays men. The column broke and fled without firing a shot and thus ended Shays Rebellion.

Undoubtedly Shays' ranks included citizens of Palmer but by the lapse of convenient memory there is no record of the names of such men.

In 1796 Capt. Levi Pease, an entrepreneur of the stage coach business, incorporated the "First Massachusetts Turnpike" which by act of the legislature ran, ". . . from Western Bridge, near the Upper Mills, so called, in Western, county of Worcester, to the county road near the house lately called Scott's Tavern, in Palmer." The course of this road and the approximate location of the toll gate are shown on the Historical Map herein.

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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

One of the entertaining bits of local lore is the story of the bell which Aaron Merrick gave in 1808 to the town for the "new meeting house" in the Old Centre. In 1847 the Congregationalists divided the town into two parishes. The first parish building a new church at Thorndike and the 2nd parish a new church at the Depot Village. The Old Centre Meeting House thus stood empty. The dwellers at the Centre claimed that the bell was given to the town and should remain in the meeting house which was still the town's property. The Thorndike people claimed ownership as the First Parish which had legally taken the place of the town in all things ecclesiastical. Judge Chapman concurred in this thought but advised a cautious course in obtaining possession. Temple in his "History of Palmer" says "About the middle of January, 1852, a church sociable was held at Thorndike; and soon after midnight a party consisting of about 40 men in sleighs and an ox-sled, went quietly to the Centre, found their way into the meeting-house, and with pulleys lowered the bell and loaded it on the sled. Just before starting they gave the bell one loud ring, which waked the hamlet; but the force was too large to be overcome by the half-dressed dwellers; and the prize was borne off to the village and raised to its place in the cupola of the new meeting-house.

As can be imagined the affair caused considerable ill feeling but even though the town voted in Nov. 1853 to appoint a committee to get the bell and replace it in the meeting house, nothing further was ever done.

The anecdote is of interest not only in itself but because it also illustrates some of the problems arising out of the growing distinction between church and town affairs.

The first, and only, Town House that Palmer has ever had was built at Four Corners in 1846. This Town House was strictly for public use and was not a Meeting House in the sense that it was to be used both for religious and secular affairs.

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY,

PALMER !

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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

It was about this same time that the Industrial Revolution came to Palmer. Up to 1826 Three Rivers was known as the "Dark Corner" and was simply farm land owned by David and Daniel Shearer. The Depot Village until 1838, and the coming of the railroad, was but a suburb of the Old Centre.

In 1826 the Three Rivers Mfg. Co. was formed and, although itself short-lived, was the beginning of industry in this town as we know it today. The village of Three Rivers was laid out by Hall J. Kelley in 1828.

Emelius Bond started a woolen mill in 1825 on the Swift River and gave us the name of Bondsville. And it was Israel Thorndike who gave his name to Thorndike when he started his venture there in 1836.

From this time on the industrial life of Palmer grew by leaps and bounds. A soap factory was started in Thorndike prior to 1851. In 1871 the Palmer Carpet Mill began operations. Francis Keyes opened the Palmer Planning Mill in 1873, later selling out to H. P. Marcy. The year 1874 saw the beginning of the Palmer Iron Foundry, manufacturers of hollow ware, sinks, etc., and Ridges' Food Factory which stood where St. Thomas' Church now is. And 1882 and 1883 was the beginning of the outstanding wire manufacture of the town with the inauguration of the Palmer Wire Co., and the Wright Wire Cloth Co.

In considering the industries of historical interest to the town mention should be made of several earlier enterprises among which were a tannery at Whipples in 1766, Mason's tan works at Blanchardville in 1790, a whiskey distillery at Palmer Center 1808, the printing and publishing business of Ezekiel Terry 1805, and, of more than passing interest, the founding of the Palmer Journal in 1850.

The Act of 1733 setting up the Elbows Tract as a Plantation provided that there be laid out in some suitable place a lot of one hundred acres for a school. This original school house lot was established on the east side of Dumplin Brook in 1735 but it does not appear that there was a school in this area until almost

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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

one hundred years later. The first mention of the school matters in the records, other than that referred to above, came in 1750 when the inhabitants were asked in meeting "To see if they would have a school master and grant money for that purpose." It was voted in the negative. Again in 1751 the question was raised and the proposal defeated.

But progress was not to be denied and in 1752 the town was divided into four school districts and the sum of £2,13,4 (roughly \$10.) was appropriated to defray the expense of each district provided that they could find suitable quarters in which to hold school. These early schools were held in private homes but by 1758 consideration was being given to building a school house. It does not appear that any school houses were actually built until at least 1767 when the town voted 60 pounds toward erecting a schoolhouse in each of five districts. From that time on the number of school districts and school houses grew until in 1850 there were 13 districts and 13 buildings. The 13 districts continued in effect until the system was abolished by legislative act in 1869.

The Palmer High School was inaugurated in 1851 when it was voted that \$600 be spent to support the school for 6 months at Thorndike, 3 months at the Depot Village, and 3 months at Three Rivers, "provided a suitable place be provided at each village, free of Expense to the town". In 1874 the High School was finally established in the Depot Village on a permanent basis. *or 1869?*

Henry David Thoreau, a New-Englander, wrote "While men believe in the infinite, some ponds will be thought to be bottomless." It might well be added that while men believe anything they will believe in buried treasure. It is for this reason that the story of the Kidd letter will always be a part of the history of Palmer.

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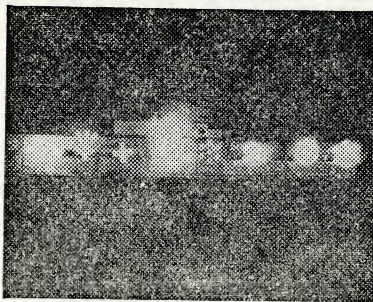
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CAPTAIN KIDD'S LETTER

To John Bailey Esq. My Dear Sir
 Hear we are in a bad situation we are
 taken from Pirates and you must come
 to Boston as soon as you get this there
 is no one here I can depend on the man
 who brings this to you cannot read it.
 he knows nothing what is in it you must
 come as soon as you get it or I may not see
 you before I am carried to England if I do
 not see you I will tell you where my money
 is for we have a plenty of that if I do
 Don't fail to be in Boston before I am
 carried to England as I can tell you more
 than I can write and better what I want
 I tell the man who brings this to you.

He went with any trouble he was taken
 by the Indians to hide his papers in some
 safe place where he can find them if
 he get away I will put them in the safe
 for he should see them or anything
 happen to him they will be safe I can't
 think of any thing more to write now but
 will tell you all when you come they
 know me well and are kind to me here
 this from your friend
 Boston 1706. Robert Kidd



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HISTORY OF PALMER — *continued*

The story is that one morning in Feb. 1849 two young rabbit hunters found, in a rocky ledge, a lead sealed bottle and within the bottle an apparently ancient document dated 1700-1. The letter purportedly was written from Boston by Robert Kidd to an attorney in New York. Kidd stated that he was in jail as a pirate, was afraid that he would be taken to England for trial, needed help and wanted attorney Bailey to come as soon as possible. Most important of all the letter described the hiding place of two chests of money and jewels on an island in Boston Harbor. The letter also stated that it was being sent overland by messenger via Worcester, Quaboag, and the Connecticut River.

The antiquity of the paper, the style of the handwriting, the nature of the information, all seemed to verify the authenticity of the document. Mr. Samuel Shaw, father of one of the boys who found the letter and owner of the farm on which the letter was found, made a trip to Boston the next summer to visit the treasure island. But one hundred and fifty years of pounding by the sea had washed away that portion of the island where the treasure was supposedly buried.

The strangest part of the story came about when Samuel Shaw sued his brother Gardner — father of the other rabbit hunter — for possession of the document. When the case came to trial Samuel took the stand and swore the letter was a forgery. The historian Temple says "so the affair ended." We would like to know why Samuel went to Boston and why he then sued his brother for possession of a forgery.

Space does not permit of relating, even briefly, the parts which the people of Palmer played upon the larger stage of national and international scenes in the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, or the Korean Action. But no matter how minor the role, the people of Palmer have played it well, never claiming the spotlight of world attention. Such is the history of Palmer, a history of real people, struggling, fighting, loving, laughing, proud of their heritage yet humble before God and their fellow man. A town with two hundred years of history behind it and a millenium of progress before it.

Edward Louis Baker, A. I. A.
Charles Wesley Dingman, A. I. A.

Leominster, Mass.
Palmer, Mass.

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HOME OF CONTROVERSIAL BELL



By C. Wesley Dingman

In 1795 the inhabitants of the Town of Palmer voted to build a new meeting house at what is now Palmer Center. The money for the project was raised in part by the sale of pews and pew-rights in the proposed meeting house. The building was finally completed in 1798, but it was not until 1806 that the town finally voted to put a cupola on the structure. When the frame for the cupola was up in 1807, Mr. Aaron Merrick purchased a bell and presented it to the town.

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For forty years this bell called the faithful to worship. But in 1847 the Congregational Society, which for some time had had control of the meeting house, divided the town into two parishes. The first parish erected a new church in Thorndike and the second parish a church in the Depot Village. The "new" meeting house stood empty.

The Thorndike people who comprised the bulk of the First Church parish claimed that the bell belonged to them; since the First Parish had legally taken the place of the town as to all ecclesiastical and parochial rights and privileges. Judge Chapman, in a legal opinion, concurred but advised caution in getting possession. The People at Palmer Center dissented, claiming that the bell belonged to the town and should remain in the meeting house.

The argument continued until one night in January, 1852, when a church social was held in Thorndike. The social lasted longer than usual and after fortifying themselves against the cold with ample hot chocolate about forty men in sleighs and an ox-sled went quietly to the Centre, removed the bell and loaded it on their ox-sled. Before leaving they gave one loud ring, waking up the hamlet, but their force was too large to be challenged by the half-dressed people of the Centre. The bell was carried off to Thorndike and there raised to the cupola of the First Church.

Thus was precipitated what has since been called, facetiously, the War between the Scotch and the Irish. The battleground was on the floor of the Town Meetings, now being held in a new Town House at Four Corners. Skirmishing continued for about two years until November, 1853, when the town chose a committee of ten to take the bell from Thorndike and replace it in the meeting house at the Old Centre. The vote of the town, however, required that the committee give bonds of \$5000 to indemnify the town from all costs and expenses made by the committee.

This action apparently marked an end to the War, and the bell remained in the cupola at Thorndike until a few years ago, when the condition of the cupola necessitated its removal. The bell now rests in the Church and it is hoped that permission can be obtained to parade this historic bell upon one of the floats in the Bi-Centennial parade.

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:--: PROGRAM :--:

Saturday, September 13, 1952

- 6:30 P.M. Official time for opening of Palmer's Bicentennial Celebration.
Worcester Kiltie Band Parade.
- 6:50 P.M. Worcester Kiltie Band Concert, Legion Field.
- 7:15 P.M. Dance Presentation by the Girls of the Worcester Kiltie Band, Palmer High School Auditorium.
- 8:00 P.M. Bicentennial Ball, Palmer High School Auditorium, with Al Strohman's Orchestra.
- 10:00 P.M. Fashions of Yesterday, Palmer High School Auditorium.
- 10:30 P.M. Intermission.
- 11:45 P.M. Good Night!

Sunday, September 14, 1952

- A.M. Services in Palmer's Churches.
- 1:00 P.M. Parade.
- 2:30 P.M. Football, Legion Field.
Palmer High School vs Northbridge, Mass.
Between Halves —
Rolling Pin Contest for the Ladies
Pie Eating Contest for the Children
Tug-o'-war for the Men.
Band Drills.
- 4:30 P.M. *Invocation by the Rev. Thomas F. Finn, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.*
Welcome address by Chairman Leo Cordiali, presenting the Master of Ceremonies, the Hon. Judge Ernest E. Hobson.
Greetings from His Excellency the Governor by Hon. George A. Wells.
Commemorative Address by Hon. Sumner G. Whittier.
Palmer's Favorite Son, John Conte.
Closing Prayer by Rev. Keith C. Munson, pastor of St. Paul's Universalist Church.
- 5:45 P.M. Roy Rogers Rodeo, Legion Field
- 7:00 P.M. Band Concert by the Elk's Band of Springfield, Mass., Legion Field.
- 9:30 P.M. Fireworks, Legion Field.



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Anonymous	\$100.00
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Mrs. Charles E. Thomas, Sr.	1.00	Pete Warakomski	5.00

LUZI'S FLOWER SHOP

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Three Rivers, Mass.

Tel. Palmer 1036-W

Prompt Delivery Service in Palmer and surrounding areas

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE

TELEVISION and APPLIANCES

SALES — SERVICE

INSTALLATIONS

Tel. Palmer 359-W

Bondsville, Mass.

STRZEMIENSKI DAIRY FARMS

PASTEURIZED DAIRY PRODUCTS

TESTED HERDS

Compliments of

WALTER K. WOJCIK

DEPARTMENT STORE

48 Main St.

Three Rivers, Mass.

S & H Green Stamps Given With Every Purchase

Palmer Rotary Club	100.00	Timothy Sullivan	1.00
Palmer Flower Shop	10.00	Rep. Clarence B. Brown	5.00

W. E. AUBUCHON CO., INC.

370 Main St.

Palmer, Mass.

HARDWARE — PLUMBING

SAPOLIN PAINTS

Compliments of

KEITH & HORGAN PHARMACY

Three Rivers, Mass.



DAIRY MAID

Park St.

Route 20

Palmer

Walter L. Cameron, Jr.	1.00	Herbert & Joyce Bishop	10.00
Quaboag Voiture #1401	5.00	Forest Lake Dairy Co.	25.00

To Our "Last-Minute" Contributors Our Many Thanks!

We deeply regret that the names of all contributors could not be listed, due to the limited time remaining in which to print our souvenir program. Subscriptions received after September 8th will be acknowledged through the medium of The Journal-Register.

*Congratulations and Best Wishes
on Your 200th Anniversary*

Palmer Schools Cadet Band Parents' Assn.

Albert E. Lynch
President

Wilfred L. Dupuis
Treasurer

Samuel J. Mullen
Vice-President

Mrs. John E. Janosz
Secretary



Palmer Business and Professional Women's Club

Palmer, Massachusetts

"On the Ramparts We Build"



Tom & Helen Johnson	2.00	Donald McCaffrey	5.00
James Bradlenski	1.00	First National	10.00

Compliments of

CAPITOL CLEANERS

Compliments of

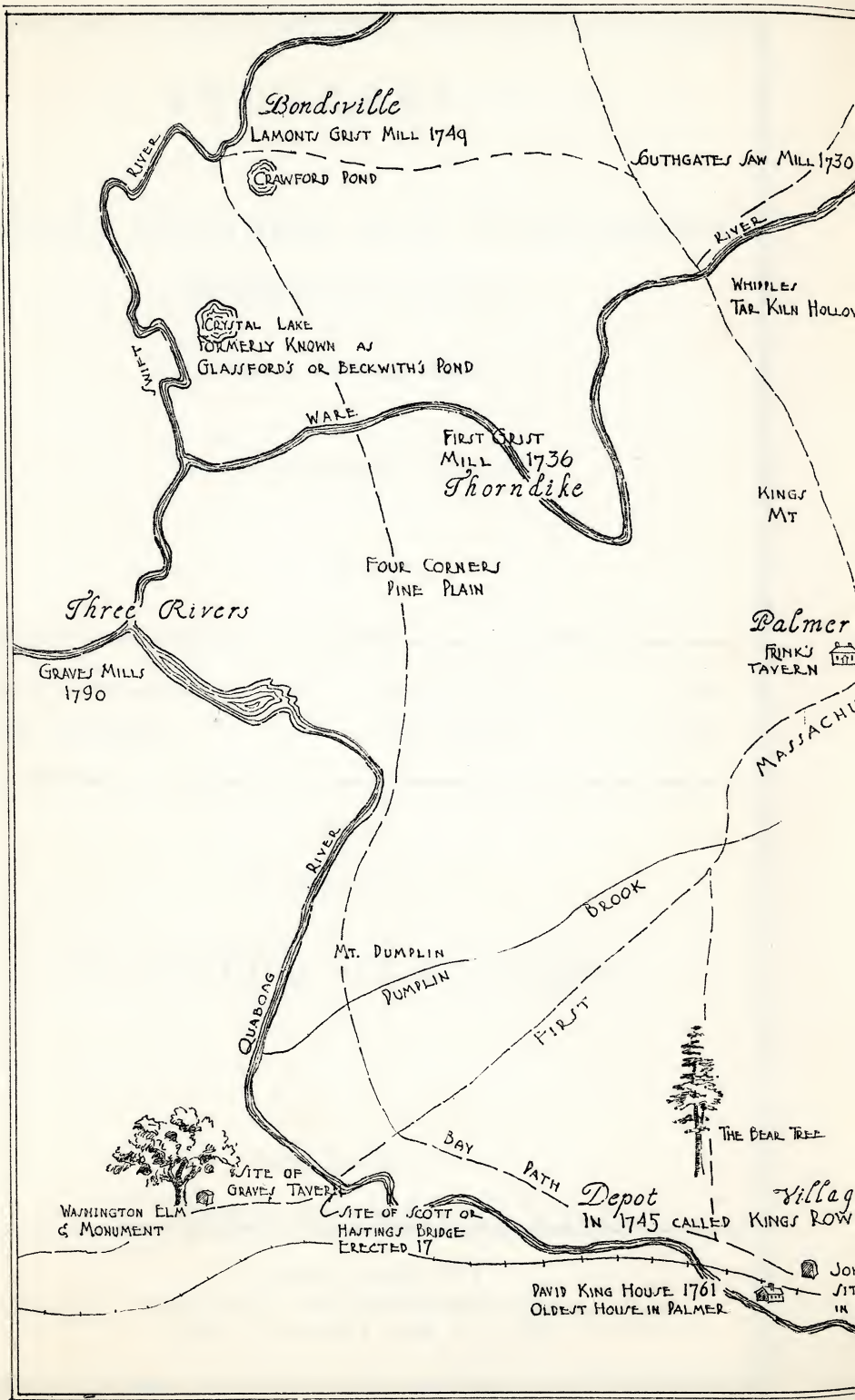
EASTERN FURNITURE CO.

Shearer's Corner

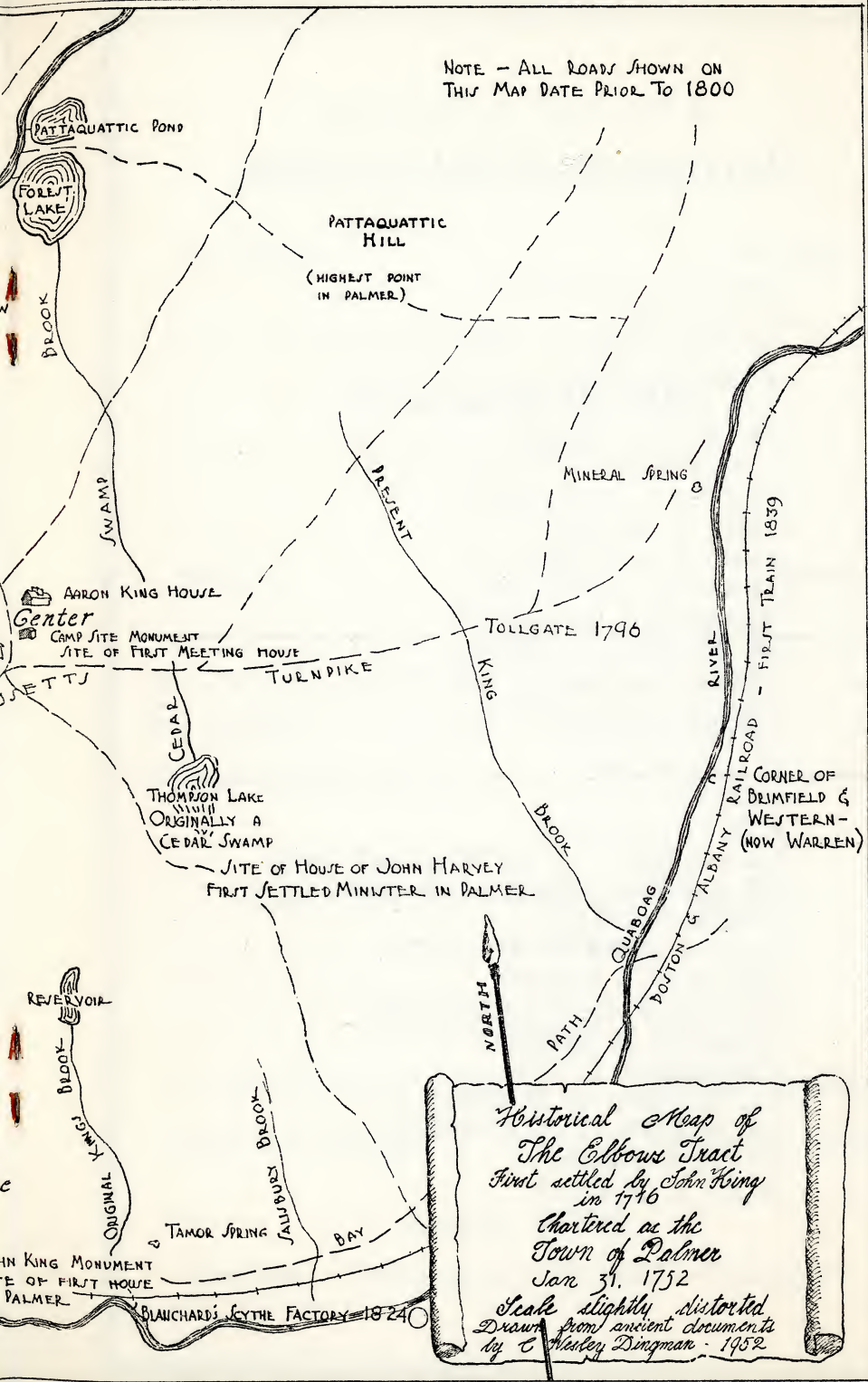
Palmer, Mass.

-:- A U T O G R A P H S -:-

*This page donated by
The Journal-Register, Est. 1850
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Dunn*



NOTE - ALL ROADS SHOWN ON
THIS MAP DATE PRIOR TO 1800



Patrons and Patronesses

FRANK S. MANCUSO

H. PLATKIN

AGNES & EDNA — Hairdressers

ROMANIK BROS.

BENJAMIN SCHNEIDER, M.D.

FRANCIS J. LYNCH

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ROBERT L. McDONALD

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MAURICE R. LePAGE, Ch.

DR. RICHARD A. PEPPE

WINTON'S HOUSE OF BEAUTY

FRANK'S CLEANERS

CHARLIE'S SPA

P. GRAVELINE

FRIEND

J. M. CAVANAUGH

DR. and MRS. J. E. SLOWICK and Family

DR. and MRS. JAMES A. FLAHERTY

MARIE CORDIALI

ELLA R. PARKER

MRS. JOYCE BARTON

MAY HOPKINS WALLENSTEIN

DOROTHY M. BURNS

CHARLES H. BURNS

LT. ROBERT E. BURNS

WILHEMINE HARRIS BURNS

ANNIE R. MURPHY

MARY E. MURPHY

BUCK'S PLACE

12 Central Street

Lou Abbate

Jim Russo

BENEDETTI & SON

FRUITS and VEGETABLES

Free Delivery

Main St.

Tel. 133

Palmer

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Alden	1.00	G. A. Clark, (Athol)	2.25
Neil Thompson	10.00	George M. Ruhmpohl	1.00

The Tarbell-Watters Co.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Wholesale Distributors of

Automotive & Industrial Parts

Electrical Appliances

Supplies & Equipment

Television & Radios

BRANCH STORES

Greenfield — Northampton — Pittsfield — Rutland, Vt.

QUALITY DRY CLEANING



Tel. 1104-M

26 Central St.

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

STRAND THEATRE

Ed Anderson, Mgr.

Mrs. Ethel Bohm	1.00	George A. Robbins	1.00
Mrs. Eliz. Williams (Cal.)	1.00	Rose DuBois	15.00



The Maytag Company

America's Leading Manufacturer of Home Laundry Equipment

Congratulates the Town of Palmer, on its 200th Anniversary



Massachusetts Wholesale Drug Co.

H A P P Y A N N I V E R S A R Y

181 Taylor St.

Springfield, Mass.

Hugo Kuehl and Frank Splaine	Palmer Grange	10.00
Palmer Funeral Service	10.00	Mrs. Lydia Smith (N. Wilb.) 1.00

E. S. B R O O K S

Watchmaker — Jeweler — Optician

Since 1856

423 Main Street

Palmer, Mass.

P A L M E R P H A R M A C Y

Prescriptions a Specialty

E. F. Slowick, Reg. Pharm.

22 Central St.

Tel. 366-W

Palmer



Compliments of

John Lizak

EXCAVATING CONTRACTORS

Palmer, Mass.



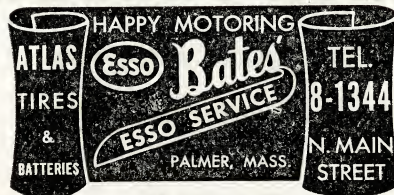
Young Men's Franco-American	Mrs. E. F. Cushman	5.00
Assoc. Inc.	Margaret Bachand	1.00

Compliments of

O'CONNOR'S PACKAGE STORE

456 No. Main St.

Palmer, Mass.



Compliments of

PALMER PACKAGE STORE, INC.

389 Main St.

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

CENTRAL DECORATORS

Walter Salamon	1.00	Dr. Richard Peppe	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Roach	2.00	Palmer Garage, Inc.	25.00



Compliments of

Tassinari Bros.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS



Compliments of

GALE'S NEWS

Meet your Friends at the
FOREST LAKE DAIRY STORE

at the Bus Terminal
Corner Main and Central Streets

Garton Quimby, Prop.

James Rathbone	10.00	Mrs. James Lewis	1.00
Jacob Hugli	10.00	"The 3 G's"	3.00

You Can't Make a Mistake

ON ANY PURCHASE YOU MAKE AT A & P

This is more than a promise—it's a guarantee that you'll never risk a penny on any item you buy at A & P. At A & P the sale is never completed until you're completely satisfied. The sale must measure up to your every expectation—or, A & P will promptly refund your money—no questions asked.

You can't make a mistake on any purchase you make at—

A&P Super Markets

DINE

DANCE

Lakeside Inn

Specializing in Home Cooking
Catering to Parties & Weddings

Cabins — Bathing Beach — Ice Skating

Phone 8136 North Wilbraham Lion Groll, Prop.
Boston Road at Nine Mile Pond

Chief of Police James Donahue

Cooley's Crossing Motel,

5.00

John C. Champartes

5.00

For Highest Quality Fresh Fruits, Vegetables & Groceries

Shop and Save at

GRZYWNA'S SELF-SERVICE STORE

181 Main Street

Three Rivers, Mass.

Serving Palmer — Villages 27 years

Compliments of

Mathieu's

Fine Shoes for the whole Family

Bostonians — Styleez — Stride Rites

427 Main St. — next to Bank



Allen F. Davis

INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE

412 Main Street

Palmer



Frederick Topor	2.00	Rose A. Palin	2.00
Dr. Lucie G. Forrer	2.00	Samar's Spa	5.00

Compliments of

POTTER SHOES

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

HATHAWAY BAKERIES, INC.

Bakers of Life Bread

Pioneer of 2-Way Radios in Palmer

ACE'S TAXI SERVICE

Open 6 A. M. — 1 A. M.

Tel. 999-W

After Hours — For Emergency Only

Call 999-R

"It Costs No More For One or Four"

2 Central St.

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

S. K. AMES, INC.

Specialists in Fancy Quality

BUTTER — EGGS — CHEESE — TEA — COFFEE

— Stores Serving New England Since 1861 —

Palmer Circle, Daughters of

Isabella

10.00

Dr. Joseph E. Slowick 10.00

Mrs. John Sullivan (Worc.) 1.00



Compliments of

Marcy Lumber Co.

BUILDING MATERIAL HEADQUARTERS

Phone 283

43 Foundry St.



ENDICOTT JOHNSON SHOES

Better Shoes For Less Money

Main St.

Palmer

NAURISON

PALMER'S LEADING JEWELERS

420 Main Street, Opposite Bank

Albert Roberge	1.00	Sandra Roberge	1.00
Verna Roberge	1.00	Mildred Fundahn	1.00



Compliments of

Palmer Flower Shop

400 Main St.

Phone 574





Nick-Con Sportshop

367 Main St.

Palmer

We weren't here 200 years ago, but the way our business is growing, watch for us when the next 300th birthday arrives.



Shirley Fundahn	1.00	Mrs. Grace Wheeler	1.00
James Fundahn	1.00	Mrs. Theodore Norman	10.00

Compliments of

PALMER RESTAURANT

Open 24 hours a day

378 Main St.

Palmer

Phone 41 for Dependable Taxi Service

PALMER YELLOW CAB CO.

Courteous — Reliable Prompt Service

9 Bridge St.

Palmer



Compliments of

Fischer's

on Springfield Road

FINE FOODS — LIQUORS

Party, Wedding and Banquet Accommodations



Edith & Max Himan of the	Mary Wielkiewicz	1.00
Elgin Restaurant	Mrs. John Hopkins	1.00

Compliments of

GLORIA'S CLEANERS & DYERS

All Kinds of Cleaning and Dyeing also Fur Storage

392 Main St.

Phone 1364

Palmer

RAY KELLEY

RANGE and FUEL OIL

Phone 781

10 Pine St.

Compliments of

THE ELGIN RESTAURANT

Where you get that cup of good coffee

428 Main St.

Palmer

MILLANE'S PHARMACY

Martin B. Millane, R. Ph.

422 Main St.

Palmer

David Peck	1.00	Dougie Peck	1.00
Bruce Peck	1.00	Joseph J. Bolow	2.00

Compliments of

Beers & Story

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Est. 1846

Phone 105

Main St.

Palmer

Compliments of

HUGLI'S BAKERY

STRED'S PAINT & WALLPAPER STORE

10 Central St.

Palmer

Carol Hopkins for her 16th

Davitt M. Rooney

5.00

birthday Sept. 13th

1.00

Harold Goetze

10.00



Compliments of

F. W. Woolworth Co.





Compliments of

Geo. A. Authier & Son

Palmer, Mass.



Franklin Gale from sale of
Temple's History at
Auction

5.00

Atty. Frank Smith
Annie K. Slaney
Leo & Gloria Santucci

10.00
5.00
2.00

GEORGE'S CLEANING SERVICE

"Let George Do It"

Phone 700

8 Central St.

Palmer

A F R I E N D

Maple Lake Arms

Home of
The Palmer Lions Club

Nothing but the best served here

Phone 833-W
Palmer, Mass.

Frank Rathbone	5.00	Rosario Demers	2.00
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hunt	10.00	Elizabeth & Jos. Jackson	5.00

Compliments of

GEORGE LeBLANC

HARDWARE and PAINTS

Compliments of

PLAZA RESTAURANT

415 Main St.

Palmer

S A M A R ' S S P A

Corner School and Park Sts.

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

L E O ' S D I N E R

Mrs. Betty Salamon of	J. Lizak	1.00	
Artistic Beauty Salon	5.00	Mr. and Mrs. A. Iadisernia	1.00



Compliments of

R. S. Graves Company

1089-1107 Columbus Avenue

Springfield, Mass.



Compliments of

WALNUT STREET CAFE, INC.

Tim Sullivan

Jim DeMaio

12 Walnut Street

Palmer

CONVERSE HOTEL

Walter F. Kulas, Mgr.

391 Main St.

Palmer

In Memory of Elizabeth
Pychewicz given by her par-

ents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Pychewicz

2.00

Elwood Adams Company

Established 1821

Disston Files, Saws, Blades

Stanley Tools

Dexter Hardware

Thor Electric Tools

Alemite Fittings

U. S. Gypsum Products

Skill Saws and Drills

Black & Decker Power Tools

American Steel Nails, Wire, Cable

Norton Grinding Wheels

Starrett Tools

Packard Paints and Varnishes

Utica Wrenches and Pliers

Lufkin Precision Tools

Yale Hardware

Faultless Casters

De Walt Radial Saws

Bennett-Ireland Fireplace Fixtures

American Kitchen Cabinets and Sinks

Standard Tool Drills, Taps and Dies

156 Main St.

Worcester, Mass.



Compliments of

W. T. Grant Co.



Howard S. Curtis	15.00	Mr. & Mrs. John W. Carlson	2.00
Palmer National Bank	25.00	Mrs. Geo. A. Moore	10.00

Congratulations, Palmer 200 Years Young

H Y A T T G A S

Superior Bottled Gas Service

Springfield Rd.

Palmer 1160

For The Best In Television

Buy It At

WARKA'S TELEVISION SHOP

480 No. Main St.

Palmer

We Carry The Following

PHILCO — SYLVANIA — EMERSON — MOTOROLA

GENERAL ELECTRIC and TELEKING

Standard Industrial Supply Co. Inc.

Distributors for

Boston Gear Works Products

Delta Power Tools

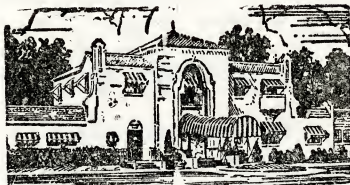
Starrett Machinists' Tools

246 Chestnut St.

Springfield, Mass.

Dr. William Riley	5.00	Theodore A. Norman	10.00
Geo. Authier	10.00	The Gales	10.00

Compliments of



Springfield's Finest Eating Place

1396 Boston Road

Phone Linden 3-1277

ECONOMY FRUIT STORE

S. S. PIERCE

GROCERIES

Fancy Fruit Baskets Made to Order

FROZEN FOODS

406 Main St.

Tel. 624

Palmer

Edward S. Gula

FREE DELIVERY

DAY AND NIGHT DINER

John Vassos

Christ Pappas

456 No. Main St.

Tel. 8-1279

Palmer

Compliments of

MIDURA'S BOWLING ALLEYS

Warren Tyler & family	2.00	Dr. John V. Greany	
Faulkner Hardware Co.	25.00	(Monson)	5.00



Compliments of

J. Russell & Company, Inc.

of

Holyoke, Mass.



ROSE DuBOIS SHOP

"The Old Reliable Dry Goods Store"

419 Main St.

Phone 343

Compliments of

CAHILL'S GULF SERVICE STATION

TIRES — BATTERIES — ACCESSORIES

North Main and Knox Sts.

Palmer

Palmer Yellow Cab	5.00	Woman's Relief Corps #76	5.00
Three Rivers C. of C.	25.00	Palmer Chamber of Com.	25.00



Compliments of

Forest Lake Dairy Co, Inc.





Compliments of

Modern Magnesium Products, Inc.

Pearl Street

Palmer, Mass.



Mr. & Mrs. Fayette
Thompson, San Juan
Capistrano, Calif.

2.00

James L. Holden & Made-
leine Holden,
Wynnewodo, Pa.

5.00



BENNIE'S BARBER SHOP

"Where Service Comes First"

Main St.

Palmer



Compliments of

Bay State Drug Store

419 Main St.

Tel. 102

Palmer



Noga's Turkey Farm	5.00	Pete Theodore & John Kat-
Mrs. John Czech	1.00	seoris, Palmer Restaurant 10.00

PALMER INN, INC.

Mary J. Warka, Prop.

Palmer, Mass.

LARAMEE'S MEN'S SHOP

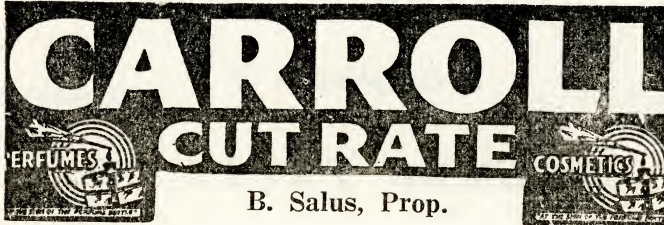
Exclusive for Men's wear

409 Main St.

Palmer

From

A FELLOW LION



426 Main St.

Phone 1092

Anonymous	2.00	Anonymous	1.00
Anonymous	1.50	A Friend	2.00



Hopkins House

447 No. Main St.

Palmer

MEETING PLACE OF SPORTSMEN

John Hopkins, Prop.



Compliments of

DURAND SISTERS, INC.

Palmer — Ware

Mass.

Compliments of

PALMER FRUIT CO.

In Memory of Bill Rourke	3.00	Frank Schardel	1.00
Judge Ernest E. Hobson	10.00	Stanley S. Opielowski	1.00



Compliments of

Broughton & Smithies

The Rexall DRUG STORE

Main St.

Palmer



Compliments of

Western Auto Associate Store

379 Main St.

Palmer

Phone 91

Anonymous	1.00	Alice, Virginia,	
J. S. of Bondsville	1.00	Gail and Billy Sird	2.00

BORON'S MARKET

MEATS — GROCERIES and VEGETABLES

FREE DELIVERY

Bondsville, Mass.

Tel. 505-W4

So. Deerfield, Mass.

Tel. 412

Compliments of

WELL WISHER



Rondeau's Dairy Bar

Palmer and South Hadley

Alvin Rondeau, Inc.



Dr. and Mrs. Harry Anton	10.00	Judge Joseph Furey	10.00
Mrs. Effie Freeman	1.00		

Compliments of

PETE'S BARBER SHOP

Main St.

Bondsville

**SPRINGFIELD
CLEANSING & DYEING CO., INC.**

14 Central St.

Palmer, Mass.

Garments Beautifully Cleaned and Pressed at Low Prices

Established 1911

Best Wishes from

LIBERTY BAKERIES

379 Main St.

Palmer

EVERYBODY'S MARKET

MEATS — FISH — POULTRY
VEGETABLES AND GROCERIES

446 Main Street

Palmer, Mass.

Andrew B. Rathbone	\$50.00	Palmer Lions Club	25.00
Dr. Flaherty	10.00	Palmer Fruit Co.	10.00

Butts Clothing Co.

A Complete Line of Formal Wear
For Rent for Every Occasion

Boys sizes 2 to 20

Men's sizes 32 to 60

— also —

Exclusive Dealer for

Arrow Shirts
Timely Clothes
Dobbs Hats

Botany Sportswear
Samsonite Luggage
Munsingwear

364 Main St.

BUTTERNUT HILL NURSERY

Offers the finest Holland grown bulbs — Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Crocus, Narcissus and others. Plant now for beauty next spring. Ask for our catalog.

Helen and Charlie Burford

Telephone Palmer 84-J

Compliments of

A F R I E N D

Parker Furniture Co.	10.00	Pat Learned	1.00
Modern Magnesium	10.00	Stephen Zisk	1.00

Palmer Venetian Blind Co.

Window Service at its Best

STORM WINDOWS

AWNINGS

Tel. Palmer 512-W

Bondsville

Baker's Sports Center

371 Main St.

Palmer

Tel. 457-W

New England's Most Complete Sporting Goods Store

Also Complete Line of
Toys — Hobby Equipment — Phonograph Records

John Tokarz	1.00	Fern Tworek	1.00
Jack Moriarty	1.00	Joe Iwasinski	1.00

GULA'S NEW ENGLAND SUPERETTE

South Main St.

Palmer

ONE STOP — SELF SERVICE

Phone for Home Deliveries — Beer and Soda by the Case

Compliments of

ST. MARY'S LYCEUM

Bondsville, Mass.

H. M. Tower

Distributors of

1900 Whirlpool

WASHERS — DRYERS — IRONERS

Sold Exclusively in this locality by

PARKER FURNITURE CO.

Palmer, Mass.

Henry Cady	1.00	Albert Lynch	1.00
Irene Pobieglo	1.00	James Burford	1.00

Compliments of

**EMPIRE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING
COMPANY**

Clinton, Mass.

Manufacturers of Chrome Kitchen Sets

*Congratulations
To Palmer, Mass.*

from

S T E R N & C O .

210 Chapel St.

Hartford, Conn.

Distributors of America's Leading Brands

JENSEN'S GARAGE AND BODY SHOP

150 Park Street

Telephone 623-W

Palmer, Mass.

Compliments of

WM. J. MULLEN TRUCKING CO.

Palmer, Mass.

Diane Timms	1.00	James Parker, Jr.	1.00
V. V. McNitt	25.00	Mrs. Edwin Barton	1.00

Coleman Levin Company

Western Massachusetts Distributors

of

Nairn Linoleum

Congoleum Gold Seal Rugs

Boston, Mass.

THE THORNDIKE CAFE, INC.

Air Conditioned for your Comfort
Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge — Horseshoe Court
Barbecue and Picnic Area
It's Your Center for Recreation

Tel. Palmer 1114

HAROLD E. FOUNTAIN

MASONRY, CONTRACTING
Specializing in Blocks and Bricks

37 Shaw Street

Palmer, Mass.

Sid Dearden	1.00	Mrs. Bertha Fountain	1.00
American Legion Aux.	5.00	Jean Fountain	1.00

A black and white advertisement for KIST. The word "KIST" is written in large, bold, block letters with a halftone dot pattern. Above the "T" is a small asterisk. Below "KIST" is the text "REG. U. S. PAT. OFF." in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below that is the phrase "—tastiest thirst-quencher in town" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word "get" is written in a cursive script, followed by "KIST!" in large, bold, block letters. A small asterisk is placed to the left of "get". The entire advertisement is set against a dark background with a white border.

KIST
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
—tastiest thirst-quencher in town
get **KIST!**

To The Contributors To The Bi-Centennial Fund

The celebration of the Bi-Centennial of the founding of the Town of Palmer would not have been possible without the generous manner in which individuals and industries contributed to the Bi-Centennial Fund. The Palmer Lions Club adds its thanks to the appreciation which everyone has for those whose financial support has brought us such a fine program of events.

STEVEN SCUDDER

MRS. GERTRUDE DUNN

King Lion C. WESLEY DINGMAN

Lion LEO CORDIALI

Chairman of the Celebration

To The Sponsors of The Bi-Centennial Program

The Palmer Lions Club most heartily thanks all of those whose advertisements and donations have made possible the creation of this souvenir program of an historic milestone in the life of Palmer. Also the many civic minded Palmer residents who have helped in any way to bring about this anniversary celebration.

We sincerely hope that we have created a program that will be cherished as a memento of Palmer in 1952. We have endeavored to briefly outline some of Palmer's past in narrative and we feel that the advertisements carried in this program will give a good picture of Palmer's present industry and commerce.

Again our thanks to all those who have joined with us in endeavoring to commemorate this historic occasion.

MORRIS WALLENSTEIN, *Chairman*

JULIAN RUCKI

FRANKLIN GALE

STEPHEN BERGESON



hat our name includes
the name of our Two Century
Old Community



We are Proud!

H. S. Curtis

President



The Palmer National Bank

Palmer, Massachusetts

Amos Rogers
 Second Representative

Roger George

An Act for erecting
 Towns into a District

the Plantation called the
 name of Palmer



Whereas it hath been represented to this Court that the Inhabitants of the Plantation in the County of Hampshire, called the Elmwood about under difficulties, by reason of their not being incorporated into a District;

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council & House of Representatives that the Plantation aforesaid be and lawfully is erected into a District by the name of ~~Palmer~~ Bounding as follows, viz. Eastward on the Town of Westmore the North, partly on the Plantation called Cold Spring, & passing by Ware River, & thence called Road Farm, Southward & Westward on the Town of Springfield; And that the Inhabitants thereof be and are lawfully incorporated with all the Towns, Privileges & Immunities ^{that the Inhabitants} within the Province and so by Law incorporated of the same Saving only in the Case of a Representative of which it is represented said Inhabitants are not at present desirous of.

Be it further enacted that all Rates & Taxes heretofore assessed or ordered to be assessed, pursuant to the Laws & Decrees of this Court upon the Inhabitants of said Elmwood Plantation, shall be levied collected & fully compensated, according to the Laws or Customs by which they were assessed.

January 28th 1752. This Bill having been read several times in the House of Representatives, ^{and} passed to be enacted.

T. M. H. 1752

Jan^y 12. 1752 This Bill having been read three several times in Council, ^{and} passed to be Enacted.

J. W. 1752

January 18th 1752 By the Hon^{ble} the Lieutenant Governor & Council consent to the Enacting of this Bill

W. 1752